

POLICE COMMITTING CRIME • DO NOT ENTER • POLICE COMMIT

STOP SERIAL KILLER COPS

Justice for Darren Cumberbatch, Nuneaton ★ Rashan Charles, Hackney ★ Edson Da Costa, Newham >>Pages 4&5

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FIGHT FOR PAY

LOCAL STRIKES over pay are showing that workers have had enough of pay cuts. Now the revolt needs to grow.

Public sector workers saw their total earnings rise by just 0.9 percent in 2016—the lowest year-on-year increase this century.

On average the pay of public sector workers has fallen by 14 percent in real terms since 2009.

Why should we continue to accept that a top company's chief executive is paid 200 times what a nurse gets, and that they get four times

more in a year than a lifetime's work for a nurse.

Trade union leaders say they will pressure the politicians to change tack. Every campaign is important. But the Tories won't abandon pay curbs—still less begin to return the money stolen during the last eight years—without real action.

There need to be strikes—and national action is the way to win. Support every strike and fight for wider action.

>>Pages 3, 18, 19 and 20

UNIONS MUST CALL NATIONAL ACTION

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Taking on the Tory cuts to council funding

AS PRESSURE grows on Labour councils to oppose austerity, Socialist Worker looks at the fight against the cuts.

Bristol's Labour mayor has unveiled a plan to lead a delegation to Whitehall and demand an end to funding cuts. And he wants other councils to join him.

>>Page 10&11

BACK THE STRIKES



BIRMINGHAM BINS



BA CABIN CREW



BANK OF ENGLAND



SERCO HEALTH

TRUMP'S CHAOS



Establishment splits won't stop attacks

A SPLIT within the US ruling class threatens to topple US president Donald Trump.

The Democrats are hoping that Trump's potential Russian connections will be enough to bring the US president down.

They are failing to address the mood in US society.

>>Page 8

LGBT+

1967 Act—a beginning of the end of shame

THE SEXUAL Offences Act, which decriminalised sex between men in private, was passed 50 years ago last week.

It's rightly heralded as a landmark in the fight for LGBT+ rights.

But its gains were limited and openly homophobic laws existed until 2013.

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THE THINGS THEY SAY

'Queue here for the gravy train'

The Daily Mail doesn't like the government defeat over fees for employment tribunals

'The human capacity for wishful thinking knows few bounds'

Justice Leggatt dismisses the claim of a financier who said he had been promised £15 million in a pub by Sport Direct's Mike Ashley

'One of the things I can't stand about this town is the backstabbing. Where I grew up we're front-stabbers'

Anthony Scaramucci, the former White House director of communications

'The US army is not a microcosm of American society: it's there to kill people and blow things up'

White House adviser Sebastian Gorka defends Donald Trump's ban on transgender people serving in the military

'As a minister you get your finger caught in the nut and the screw'

Tory Brexit minister Baroness Anelay



Hopkins and nautical Nazi people smugglers scuppered

A GAGGLE of far right fools have managed to make a mess of "Defending Europe".

The nautical Nazis aimed to disrupt migrant rescues in the Mediterranean. They have been deported from Cyprus for alleged people-smuggling.

Perhaps it was the support of holder of opinions for money Katie Hopkins that sent them astray.

The Mail Online columnist was recently axed from LBC radio after calling for a "final solution" to Islamist terrorism.

Hopkins previously said she wanted to "use gunships to stop migrants".

Hopkins went to Sicily and spent time with Defend Europe.

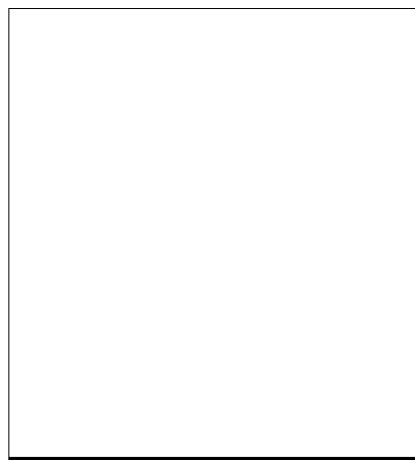
The "mission" was originally to actively block search and rescue (SAR) NGO vessels.

They then claimed they will "monitor" the situation and intervene should they see wrongdoing by the NGOs.

Hopkins tweeted, "Looking forward to meeting the crew of the C-Star in Catania tomorrow.

ONE IN five MPs continue to employ a member of their family using taxpayers' money despite the practice being banned for new members of Parliament.

Of the 589 returning MPs, 122 have declared the employment of a relative in the latest Register of Members' Financial Interests. None of the 61 new MPs are allowed to do so.

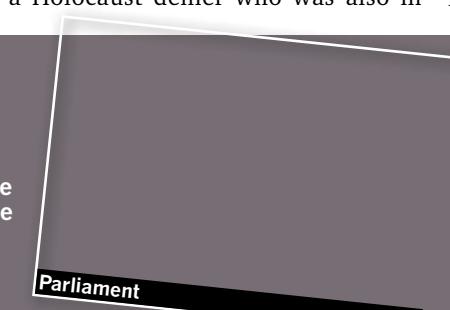


Katie Hopkins

"Setting out to defend the Med. All this week".

She also retweeted the Defend Europe Twitter account.

She was photographed with far-right activists including Peter Sweden, a Holocaust denier who was also in



Parliament

Catania supporting the Defend Europe mission.

He previously tweeted somewhat ungrammatically, "The claim that 6 million jews were gassed seem highly unprobable. The concentration camps didn't have the facilities for that".

He also tweeted, "By the way just so you know i am not a nazi :) I think Hitler had some good points, but i don't agree with fascism or socialism".

The ship was first stopped in Port Suez, due to "a lack of documentation and papers".

And Hopkins' first article from Sicily mysteriously disappeared from the Mail Online site.

When the boat got to Cyprus the crew of the C-Star were taken off the vessel at the port of Famagusta, and appeared in court last Thursday, alongside the ship's Swiss owner.

They were accused of preparing and circulating false documents, but were released for lack of evidence.

It turned out at least 20 Sri Lankan refugees were aboard the C-star.

SUPERMAN movie makers have banned a sculptor from calling his project Man of Steel. Warner Brothers lawyers waded in when they heard the 32-metre work of art would be called Yorkshire Man of Steel.

It will stand beside the M1 in Rotherham and has now been renamed The Steel Man.

Cops increase stop and search

TWO OF the biggest police forces have quietly stepped up their use of stop-and-search powers.

Officers in Greater Manchester and Surrey detained more people in the first four months of this year than in the same period last year.

Black people are seven times more likely than white people to be stopped. Metropolitan police commissioner Cressida Dick decided to increase stop and searches in May.



25%

THE price of toilet paper has soared by up to 25 percent over the past year. A nine-roll pack of Andrex Quilts is up 17 percent to an average £4.85 in supermarkets.

Its four-pack of Classic white rolls is up 15 percent to £2.12.

Andrex has cut the average size of rolls by 19 sheets without reducing the price, a practice dubbed "shrinkflation". Cushelle has hiked the price of a 16-roll pack by 25 percent to £7.50.

Rich set to be richest

THE BOSS of Amazon overtook Bill Gates as the world's richest man last week for a bit.

Jeff Bezos's wealth peaked at £69.5 billion after the online retailer's shares soared in early trading.

Microsoft founder Gates, who is worth £68.9 billion, has been the world's wealthiest since May 2013.

Amazon shares have risen 24 percent in the past four months, adding £13 billion to Bezos's net worth. Shares rose £600 million before falling, putting Gates just back in the lead.

MP resents having to register as a lobbyist

A LABOUR MP has become the first serving politician to be officially registered as a lobbyist.

Barry Sheerman is listed on the register of consultant lobbyists because of his chairmanship of Policy Connect.

Alison White, the registrar of consultant lobbyists, found that Policy Connect should be defined as a lobbying company because it is paid money by clients who are then given the opportunity to meet ministers.

There are more than 550 parliamentary

groups. The groups have received millions of pounds of external funding since the beginning of 2015.

Policy Connect asks companies to pay between £175 and £20,000 to become members of parliamentary groups.

In return, they are able to attend events and meetings in parliament, some of which are held with ministers. Sheerman was paid £2,200 a month to be Policy Connect's chairman on top of his MP's salary. He has given up the payment since registering.

AN Alzheimer's sufferer had a Taser fired at him by police at his care home because he pulled out a butter knife.

David Litherland, 73, was taken to hospital after falling when the weapon's dart pierced his chest. His wife Theresa said, "It was the most heartbreaking thing I've ever seen, I can still see the pain etched on his face."

The Taser had failed to deploy the 50,000-volt shock but he fell to the floor, banging his head. Theresa

said, "David had sat down to eat lunch when he started acting aggressively.

"This often happens when he is feeling unwell or frustrated as he can't process his emotions.

"I got a call asking me to come to help. When I arrived the police were walking in. They approached David and asked him three times to take his hands out of his pocket.

"He produced the butter knife and they fired at him. It was just a butter knife he was having dinner with."



Age concern?

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Strikers in Brum refuse to be trashed by council

by BRIDGET PARSONS

BIN WORKERS in Birmingham are waging a heroic fight against the Labour council's funding cuts.

The Unite union members, based at four depots around the city, are currently striking for three hours every day.

They have gradually stepped up the length and frequency of their walkouts, and plan to keep escalating with action organised into September.

The council is pushing through a restructuring of the service that it claims will modernise it and save money.

But workers say this will hit their income and residents' safety. The proposals would give them more work to do in less time, and remove the workers who supervise the back of the lorries.

Pete—not his real name—has been a bin worker for 25 years. He spoke to Socialist Worker on the picket line at the Lifford Lane depot. "They want to take money off workers who earn less than the benefit cap," he said.

"The service won't improve."

Pressure

Councillors are under pressure from an "independent" board of overseers set up by the government to "hold their feet to the fire" over cuts.

It came out of a review that called, among other things, for the bin service to be privatised.

Workers believe the restructuring is laying the groundwork to do just that. As Pete said, "This is the tip of the iceberg."

"After us it's going to be the rest of the council workers—the cooks, the teaching assistants, the care workers."

Workers have been told to keep quiet or risk the sack, but council bosses are under no such gag. Pete



SOLIDARITY ON the picket line

said, "This is utter hypocrisy, they can stand there and tell lies, we're not even allowed to tell the truth."

"The local paper is just an organ of the council and won't put our side of the story."

He added, "Jacqui Kennedy, one of the council's corporate directors, is on £13,000 a month for decimating the service."

To try and break the strike bosses are hiring agencies and cutting corners, angering workers further.

Pete said, "Assistant director of the council Darren Share says he's

passionate about the environment. Our bins have posters on designed by local primary kids about saving the planet and recycling.

Waste

"But we have been told to put all the recycling material into the bin with the rest of the waste and it's all going into landfill."

"Normally the paper recycling earns the council money—they're literally throwing thousands of pounds away in order to break the strike."

The strike is hitting hard with

uncollected rubbish stacking up.

Unite has hinted that it expects the council to agree to more talks, though that's no reason to let the pressure up.

Labour councils often condemn Tory austerity while passing it on. These workers are right to resist them, and deserve the support of workers everywhere.

FRACKING

Gas giant Ineos gets protest injunction

THE COURTS handed a big present to Ineos, the largest shale gas exploration company in Britain, on Monday.

The High Court granted the giant firm an interim injunction against potential anti-fracking protesters.

It covers eight named locations.

They included two proposed shale gas sites in Derbyshire and Rotherham, as well as company offices and property belonging to site landowners.

It also applies more widely than injunctions sought by previous oil and gas companies. It covers routes to the proposed exploration sites and to activities



Anti-fracking protesters

undertaken by Ineos employees and members of its supply chain.

This includes any depot, equipment, people and operations.

It even outlaws actions such as slow-walking.

Ineos Shale also recently threatened the National Trust with legal action over access to land in Nottinghamshire.

The company wants to carry out seismic testing there and said, "The National Trust is taking an overtly political position."

As the injunction was granted, direct action protests continued at Cuadrilla's Preston New Road shale gas site near Blackpool.

The coordinator, Reclaim the Power, said there had been disruptive action every working day in July.

More than 70 people have been arrested.

BATTLE OF LEWISHAM FORTY YEARS ON

March from 1pm,
Saturday 12 August
Clifton Rise,
London SE14 6JW

Love Music Hate Racism
gig at 7pm, New Cross Inn,
London SE14 6AS

●Unite Against Fascism
●Love Music Hate Racism

#Lewisham77 SUNDAY 13th AUGUST

Part of a weekend of free events, including live music, talks, exhibitions and screenings commemorating the 40th anniversary of the battle against the fascist National Front in 1977.
[gold.ac.uk/battle-of-leisham](http://gold.ac.uk/battle-of-lewisham)

Goldsmiths College
Lewisham Council
Love Music Hate Racism

How the Mitie has fallen

AN INVESTIGATION into the auditing of outsourcing giant Mitie's accounts has shone a little light on the murky world it inhabits.

Mitie has milked millions from public authority contracts to run services, from immigration detention centres to cleaning, security and healthcare.

The bosses' Financial Times newspaper reports how Mitie admitted it had been "over-aggressive" in its accounting.

Mitie is believed to have recorded profits on long-term contracts too early for them to be true.

The Financial Reporting Council's (FRC) watchdog's

investigation focuses more on how Mitie's accounting practices were audited by top management consultancy Deloitte than on Mitie's own accounting.

Astonishingly, the FRC found "deficiencies" in one third of the accounts it scrutinised across the six largest audit firms in Britain.

Competition for public services contracts is intense, as outsourcing firms outbid each other to squeeze as much profit as they can.

Workers face the brunt of this with attacks on their conditions while services deteriorate for their users.

Profit should have no place in our public services.

EXCLUSIVE

'Darren was screaming for help'—witnesses speak out

by DAVID KERSEY

DARREN CUMBERBATCH was beaten, tasered and sprayed with CS gas by police before he died, speakers told a rally last Saturday. Other witnesses to the events have given their accounts to Socialist Worker.

Darren came into contact with police in the early hours of 10 July at probation hostel McIntyre House in Nuneaton, Coventry. He was taken to hospital and died on 19 July.

The cause of Darren's death has not been confirmed and the cops' pet watchdog, the IPCC, is investigating.

More than 350 people joined a march demanding justice for Darren in Nuneaton on Saturday before rallying outside the police headquarters.

Campaigner Charlie Williams told the rally, "I have seen the photos of Darren. He was battered by the police."

"He has injuries from head to toe. Black eyes. Bruises all over his body. Burn marks all over his body. This is no exaggeration, this is facts."

Shouting

Luke, a McIntyre House resident who witnessed the police treatment of Darren, also spoke to the rally.

"Something kicked off around two in the morning," he said. "I heard him screaming, I heard him shouting."

"The police were there. He was screaming for help. He was asking, 'What have I done?' I heard no reply."

"I heard tasers—no warning of tasers. I heard CS gas—no warning of CS gas. I hope justice is found."

"That night there was something going on that shouldn't have been going on by police."

Now a number of men staying at McIntyre House have told Socialist Worker that Darren shouted for help from a toilet cubicle as police stood outside.

One said, "They wouldn't let us

BACK STORY

Darren Cumberbatch died in hospital on 19 July

- He came into contact with the police at McIntyre House in Nuneaton, Coventry, on 10 July
- The police's pet watchdog, the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC), is investigating
- The cause of Darren's death has not been confirmed
- Witnesses to the events in McIntyre House have spoken out about Darren's treatment

DEMANDING JUSTICE in Nuneaton last Saturday

PICTURE: GEOFF DEXTER

Family of Darren Cumberbatch lead hundreds in justice march

OVER 350 people marched in Nuneaton, Warwickshire, last Saturday to protest for justice for Darren Cumberbatch.

The march was led by Darren's family and supported by many friends, as well as community activists and trade unionists.

Family members gave solidarity greetings to the families of Rashan Charles and Edson Da Costa, two men who also recently died after contact with police.

All have generated furious protests and a determination to make sure the cops are held to account.

As one McIntyre House resident put it, "The police cannot keep getting away with everything they're doing. They think they're better than us just because they've got that uniform on."

According to the BBC assistant chief constable Richard Moore said, "The independent IPCC investigation is looking at the circumstances, including the use of force, and we are co-operating fully."

It would not be appropriate for us to comment until the outcome of that investigation is known."

Go to Justice4Daz on Facebook to get involved with the campaign



Darren Cumberbatch, who died after coming into contact with the police
McIntyre House hostel where Darren had been staying. Candles were lit and flowers left in tribute at the hostel entrance. The campaign has called a meeting for 9 August. Go to Facebook event #Justice4Daz Fund raising events & Action planning meeting for details

the police headquarters in the town.

Campaigners demanded the immediate suspension of the police officers involved and suspension of the use of tasers.

The march followed an angry and determined public meeting attended by over 200 people in Coventry last Wednesday.

Hostel

Speakers on Saturday included Darren's family, community activist Rev Desmond Jaddoo and witnesses from the hostel.

Desmond Jaddoo said to big cheers, "We have brought one of the main roads in Nuneaton to a standstill."

"No one gets through, in the name of Darren Cumberbatch. We want justice for Darren."

Carla, Darren's sister, said, "Numbers are power. I am going to make my voice heard in the name of my brother."

The campaign has called a meeting for 9 August. Go to Facebook event #Justice4Daz Fund raising events & Action planning meeting for details

Diane Abbott stands with Rashan and Edson's dads

by SADIE ROBINSON

SHADOW home secretary Diane Abbott spoke to protesters outside Stoke Newington police station in Hackney, east London, last Saturday.

Stand Up To Racism called the protest following recent deaths of black men following contact with the cops.

Twenty year old Rashan Charles died on 22 July after being thrown to the ground in a shop in Hackney.

Edson Da Costa died on 21 June after being stopped by cops in Newham, and Darren Cumberbatch (see left).

Abbott, MP for Hackney North and Stoke Newington, told protesters, "I will stand by the parents in their fight for the truth."

Answered

"There are questions to be answered and I will not rest until they are."

Rashan's father Esa and Edson's father Ginario joined the protest.

The rally followed an angry demonstration last Friday night.

Around 150 people, largely young, set up makeshift barricades on Hackney's Kingsland Road.

Cars and mopeds that tried to get through were peacefully turned

"But they're making

The Justice for Edson campaign has a model solidarity motion for trade union branches and campaign groups. Email justice4edsoncam

paign@hotmail.co.uk to get a copy



THE PEOPLE at the top of society are in trouble. Despite US president Donald Trump's protestations that

Monday was a "great day" for him,

the White House is melting in his

hands (see page 8).

In Britain, Theresa May and the Tories lurch from crisis to crisis over Brexit, with sections of the civil service in near-open revolt.

One Financial Times newspaper columnist wrote this week, "No one knows where they stand with Theresa May any more.

"Since her own war of choice with the Labour Party in June's election she has trundled on as the ceremonial leader of a neutered government."

Unfortunately that crisis alone doesn't mean an end to austerity and racist attacks.

When the ruling class is in crisis, it can lash out and look to increasingly racist solutions.

Trump's attacks on Muslims, migrants and pushing for his border wall are all part of that.

And so are the Tories' insistent calls for an end to freedom movement as part of a right wing version of Brexit (see page 6).

Despite their incompetence and

Socialist Worker WHAT WE THINK

SEIZE OUR RULERS' CRISIS TO WIN REAL CHANGE

unpopularity, the people at the top of the pile remain there. And they will stay in their positions unless they are forced out.

Jeremy Corbyn's success is a massive boost to everyone fighting for a better society.

But it can lead to people simply waiting for the next general election rather than fighting at all times. That could allow the Tories to continue their toxic policies for longer than is necessary.

How they are forced out

matters. The absence of a movement from below gives the people at the top the chance to rearrange the deckchairs on their sinking ship.

Theresa May got rid of her

key advisers after her disastrous election campaign.

Yet one replacement was the hapless former housing minister Gavin Barwell—who had a hand in the conditions that led to the Grenfell Tower fire.

In the US Trump is getting rid of advisers left, right and centre. But he is replacing them with militaristic figures.

Ordinary people can force our rulers out, and push for more fundamental change at the same time. But it will take a dramatic increase in the amount of struggle. That means more strikes and more protests.

Strikes by BA cabin crew, outsourced hospital workers, bin workers and housing workers show there is a mood to fight.

That needs to be pushed forward. National action over the public sector pay cap would raise the level of class struggle in Britain. And it could become a focus for all the bitterness against the Tories.

The people at the top of society are far from invulnerable. But we need to be organised to exploit their vulnerability and force them out.

And we can go further to challenge their system.

"The people at the top will stay in their positions unless they are forced out"

COURTS PROTECT BLAIR

BRITISH NEWSPAPERS were furious at a bomb maker who was jailed on terror charges last week.

One of Her Majesty's marines, Ciaran Maxwell, had been making bombs—and passing them to the Continuity Irish Republican Army in Northern Ireland.

After reporting on the trial, the papers had no indignant outrage left. So they made very little of the fact that known terrorist Tony Blair would avoid the dock for war crimes.

Yet the British judges ruled that

no such crime exists under British law.

The US and Britain invaded Iraq on the lie that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction. In reality, the US wanted to assert its power over its imperialist rivals by seizing control of one of the world's largest deposits of oil.

After the Chilcot Inquiry last year, Jeremy Corbyn was right to apologise on behalf of the Labour Party for the Iraq war. He should kick Blair and his unrepentant acolytes out of the party.

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ANALYSIS

ROB FERGUSON



Holocaust deniers and Israel's allies

IF YOU keep crying “Wolf!” don’t be surprised when the real beast enters the room.

There has rightly been an explosion of outrage at Kevin Myers’ article in the Irish edition of the Sunday Times newspaper, owned by media baron and Tory ally Rupert Murdoch.

In it Myers mounts an openly antisemitic attack on Jews in the media, in this instance aiming at two women Jewish presenters, Claudia Winkleman and Vanessa Feltz.

Outrage there should certainly be. But not only over this disgusting piece, which has now been pulled.

Where, for instance, was the outrage over his 2009 piece for the Irish Independent newspaper?

Myers began that column by saying, “There was no holocaust, (or Holocaust, as my computer software insists) and six million Jews were not murdered by the Third Reich. These two statements of mine are irrefutable truths.”

For the rest of the article, which has also now (very belatedly) been pulled, Myers dissembled just enough to avoid sanction from his press and political patrons.

The article, in line with most of Myers’ tirades, finally concludes with a hate attack on Europe’s Muslims.

Where is the outrage at the fact that Myers has nonetheless continued as a regular columnist for the Irish Independent newspaper?

Here he has railed against “the crazy ideology of global warming”, the “union cult” of Jim Larkin, the promotion of the Irish language, the “toxic piety” of equality and much else besides.

But here is a peculiar thing. Myers has a long history of support for Israel, a defender of the attacks on Gaza, ever laced with hate for all things Muslim.

In 2012 YNET, the website of Israel’s most read newspaper Yedioth Ahronoth, reprinted a Myers opinion piece in which he denounced the Irish Palestine Solidarity Group and BDS activists, as “secular mullahs” promoting “the liberal version of Sharia law”.

Hatred

In 2013, the Israeli embassy in Dublin cited Myers very favourably for an attack on “the insensate hatred that the liberal left everywhere feel for ... Israel”.

The odd Holocaust peccadillo did not appear an issue between friends.

And this is the rub. The Campaign Against Antisemitism (CAA) has led criticism against Myers.

However, the CAA was founded in 2014 in order to defend Operation Cast Lead and justify Israeli war crimes in Gaza at the time.

All the while it mounted a slander campaign against the left, human rights bodies and Palestinian rights organisations, labelling their campaigns as “antisemitic”.

Of course we should point to the current hypocrisy of the CAA as longstanding allies of Myers and his ilk.

However, there is a more fundamental point to be made. The problem is that a defence of Israel tends towards a defence of the imperialist order upon which the Israeli state depends.

In my youth it was politically—if illogically—possible to separate the two. That separation is becoming increasingly difficult to sustain.

There is also a corollary at home. The defence of intervention in the Middle East, including Israel, now walks hand in hand with the promotion of Islamophobic narratives at home, fuelling the far right and the antisemitism it carries in its train.

Myers is a nasty antisemitic foghorn who was of use to the defenders of the Israeli state against the left despite the odd antisemitic “eccentricity”.

However, there is more at stake than the foul ramblings of a reactionary columnist.

For example, Israeli prime minister Binyamin Netanyahu has just paid a friendly visit to the antisemitic, Holocaust revisionist Orban regime in Hungary.

Orban is a tribune of anti-Muslim and anti-refugee hate and the bane of human rights NGOs and liberals.

As with Myers, Netanyahu and Orban have found common cause and will not allow a small matter of the Hungarian Holocaust to stand between them.

Tory Brexit plans will make migrants more vulnerable

by DAVE SEWELL

THE FREE movement of people between Britain and the European Union (EU) is set to end with Brexit in March 2019, the Tories have decided.

Home secretary Amber Rudd, international trade secretary Liam Fox and immigration minister Brandon Lewis were all firm on this issue last week.

Lewis even said it was “very clear” and a “simple matter of fact”.

But it evidently wasn’t clear and simple enough for cabinet colleague Michael Gove, who had argued the opposite the previous week.

Britain’s government will no longer be obliged to uphold freedom of movement after Brexit. But nor will it be obliged to impose any new restrictions.

It will have the right to set its own immigration policy. Whether that policy is harsher, more relaxed or substantially the same for EU nationals is a decision to be made, not a “fact” to be recognised.

Hoof

The Tory ministers who seem to be making Brexit policy on the hoof while Theresa May is away and parliament is in recess do largely agree on one thing.

They say an interim arrangement will be put in place for up to three years after Brexit to make time for further negotiations. Even Gove, a right wing “hard Brexit” supporter, argued that ending freedom of movement could wait until 2022.

But Rudd said that the “implementation phase”

would involve all new EU workers who arrive in Britain after Brexit giving their details for a register.

She claimed that eventually “our new immigration system will give us control of the volume of people coming here”. Rudd said this is about “giving the public confidence we are applying our own rules on who we want to come to the UK and helping us to bring

REFUGEES AND migrants face blocks across Europe and Amber Rudd (left) wants to put up more barriers

down net migration to sustainable levels”.

In reality there is nothing unsustainable about current immigration levels, and little the Tories can do to substantially bring them down.

Their proposals for a post-Brexit system mean more restrictions on the rights of workers who come here.

And they mean pouring more fuel on the fire of anti-immigrant racism.

This will make migrant workers more vulnerable to repression from the law and harassment from racists.

It will make it harder for them to organise and easier for bosses to exploit them.

So despite many claims that freedom of movement helps bosses drive down

wages, ending it would only make things worse.

The leaders and supporters of the EU are guilty of the direst hypocrisy when they criticise the Tories’ clamp-down plans.

“Fortress Europe” is no friend of those who need to cross borders (see below).

Labour could insist that future migrants, as well as EU nationals here now, keep their rights after Brexit.

It’s a missed opportunity that even most of its left—including Jeremy Corbyn—refuses to do so.

Meanwhile the Tories are shambolically groping towards a plan that, if it isn’t stopped, will be racist, repressive and damaging to all workers.

EU moves to step up deportations

THE EU’S top court threw its weight behind rolling back the refugee exodus of 2015-16 last week.

It ruled that the heroic journey of hundreds of thousands of people through the Balkans into central Europe did not constitute exceptional circumstances.

This means that under the rules of the “Dublin convention” refugees can be sent back to the first country they entered.

In this case, two Afghan families in Austria and a Syrian in Slovenia lost their appeal against being

deported to Croatia.

The case allows more refugees to be deported to Spain, Bulgaria and especially Greece and Italy.

Italy is at the frontline of this year’s European refugee crisis.

Tightening restrictions there have driven hundreds of thousands onto overloaded dinghies on the Mediterranean.

For any humane and sustainable solution to the refugee crisis, freedom of movement must not be restricted to Europeans but extended to all of those who are in need.

FIGURE IT OUT

113,182

refugees reached EU countries by sea so far this year, as of this week

94,642

came to Italy through north African countries, particularly Libya. Most of the rest came to Greece from Turkey, or Spain from Morocco

2,378

died on the way

SOURCE: UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSION FOR REFUGEES

An EU Frontex border guard

Displaced survivors and unsafe buildings after the Grenfell fire

The fire left hundreds of people without homes and saw dozens of buildings fail new safety checks—and two months later neither problem is being addressed, reports Alistair Farrow

ALMOST TWO months after the Grenfell Tower fire survivors are still waiting to be rehoused.

"We don't have a home to stay in so we have stayed in a hotel for six weeks," said one survivor. "It's no life in a hotel. We've got only two rooms."

"I have three daughters. One of them sleeps on the floor and the other two sleep in the bed."

New Kensington and Chelsea council leader Elizabeth Campbell has said that 400 new homes will be built—but not for five years.

"It's been seven weeks now and people are still living in hotels, it's a disgrace," Moyra Samuels from the Justice 4 Grenfell campaign told Socialist Worker. "People need to be rehoused now."

The council has £250 million in reserves. It should be buying properties for sale, renting private accommodation or seizing second homes in the borough from the rich.

A new Grenfell Response Team (GRT) taskforce, set up last week, is due to be located in the Kensington and Chelsea town hall.

The residents' association of the Lancaster West estate, which Grenfell Tower stands on, has condemned the move.

Investigated

"There's a huge potential conflict of interest there," said Moyra. "The council is being investigated for its responsibility for the fire. Is it appropriate that this new taskforce which is taking over from the police Gold Command is housed in council offices?"

The fire also raises wider questions about the safety of buildings across Britain. Immediately after the fire there were many tests and audits. But what action follows?

The Genesis housing association has refused to take down cladding after two blocks it controls in Pitsea, Essex, failed government tests.

"We are not currently planning to remove the cladding from the buildings until updated government guidance is provided by the



THE LATEST in a series of vigils and protests for the victims of the fire in west London last week

Department for Communities," said a spokesperson.

It's clear that housing bosses, government ministers and many council leaders would prefer to do as little as possible in response to Grenfell. We can't allow them to get their way.

All 19 fire inspections in prisons last year failed, freedom of information (FOI) requests have revealed. There were 2,580 fires in prisons over the course of the year.

Mark Leech, who filed FOI requests to the prison service, said this was "a catastrophe waiting to happen".

Many of the revelations that have followed Grenfell were known to residents and activists for years.

Out of its ashes must come a redoubled fight for a new generation of safe council housing.

A corporate manslaughter verdict wouldn't be justice

POLICE investigating the fire say they have "reasonable grounds" to suspect that corporate manslaughter offences have been committed.

Senior representatives of both the tenant management organisation (KCTMO) and the council will be asked to give evidence to the investigation.

Although some firms have been convicted in the past, the number is small.

Usually, unless there are further prosecutions under different laws, the

penalty is limited to fines.

Those firms convicted tend to be smaller ones where it is easier to demonstrate a "controlling mind" who made the decision behind the acts of negligence that led to a death.

With a large body like the KCTMO or Kensington and Chelsea council, this may be more difficult.

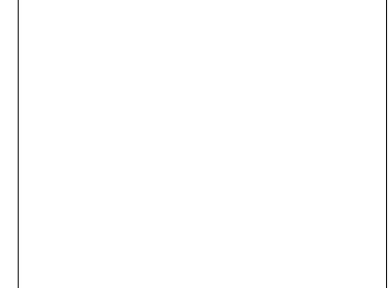
One resident said, "Mass murder was committed at Grenfell Tower. To talk about corporate manslaughter is an insult."

'This is like sitting on a tinderbox'

AROUND 70 buildings have failed new fire safety checks ordered after the Grenfell fire. The tests, carried out by the Building Research Establishment (BRE), focus on cladding and insulation.

Fire safety expert Dave spoke to Socialist Worker about the new "whole fire system" tests.

"If you look at the exterior of the building all you see is the



Cladding and insulation in Salford

aluminium outside," he said. "It should have non-flammable insulation under the cladding, commonly made from Rockwool. You shouldn't be able to ignite it."

"They won't make any of the tests public. The tests for cladding are commonly on a six metre run sample. These tests are on a 250cm square sample."

"They haven't released any of the results. Nobody in the industry knows what tests they're doing or how they've done them."

Of the 70, only nine blocks, in Salford, Greater Manchester, are local authority flats. Dave said, "Privately-owned blocks tend to go for the cheapest option."

Tower block residents up and down Britain are living in fear that they might be next. One Salford resident described it as being "like sitting on a tinderbox".

But the squeeze on local government funding threatens the upgrades required.

Professor of risk and crisis management Edward Borodzicz said, "I'm surprised having identified the faulty cladding that there's even a discussion over who's going to pay for it."

"This is something where central government should take responsibility."

Splits won't stop nasty offensive from Trump

Donald Trump has had a bad week, but protests are needed to push him out, writes **Alistair Farrow**

SPLITS WITHIN the US ruling class threaten to topple US president Donald Trump—but they may not be enough on their own.

On Monday the new communications director Anthony Scaramucci was removed after just ten days in office.

In a little over six months Trump has changed (at least once) his chief of staff, deputy chief of staff, national security adviser, press secretary and communications director.

Last week Trump's revised healthcare bill was voted down in the Senate. If it had passed some 22 million people would have lost their health insurance.

Three Republican senators voted against the bill.

Trump has fired members of his team who don't toe the line to try and shore up his position.

Press secretary Sean Spicer was forced out last month.

Chief of staff Reince Priebus has gone, replaced by retired general John Kelly.

It was Kelly who demanded Scaramucci be fired.

Generals

Three of the top four appointed positions in the US government are now filled by ex-generals.

Trump is trying to appeal directly to the military and the police. In a speech to police last week he asked cops to not "be too nice" to people they arrest.

"When you see these thugs being thrown into the back of a paddy wagon—you just see them thrown in, rough," he said.

Trump has yet to pass a piece of legislation through both houses of Congress, but that doesn't mean he can't launch vicious attacks.

The Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency rounded up 188 people in a five-day sweep in California last week. Another 114 were arrested in New York.

But there is resistance. Activists held protests across the US on Wednesday of last week against the repeal of Deferred Action for

BACK STORY

Donald Trump's presidency is in crisis as splits at the top grow

- Trump is under fire over his and his family's alleged links with Russia
- And he failed last week to get his healthcare reforms through the Senate
- Trump is firing members of his team who don't toe the line to try and shore up his position
- But protests from below are deepening his crisis—and could help to force him out of office

Childhood Arrivals.

The measure, introduced in 2012, means undocumented people who came to the US as children can receive a two-yearly renewable right to remain.

Activist Catalina Santiago was one of a group of 15 arrested in Austin, Texas, at a sit-in. "If ICE wants to come and disrupt our families, then we will disrupt the daily lives of people here," she said.

"That's so they can feel, for a few minutes, what our people feel for years in this country."

And protests were held across the US last Saturday in opposition to Trump's healthcare proposals.

The Democratic Party leadership has yet to be forced into opposing the deportation raids as it did with the Muslim ban. That's largely because it supports deportations.

Obama had deported more people at this point in his presidency than Trump has.

The Democrats are hoping that Trump's potential Russian connections will be enough to bring him down.

That way they won't have to address the mood in US society that pushed Bernie Sanders close to taking the Democratic candidacy.

But if the movement against Trump grows, it can become a fight against the bosses and racism as well.

DONALD TRUMP speaking to police officers last week

Vote in Venezuela shows weakness of the right wing opposition to Maduro

by DAVE SEWELL

ELECTIONS TO Venezuela's new constituent assembly last Sunday saw long voting queues in poorer, more pro-government neighbourhoods.

The opposition called for a boycott, so those elected are all broadly government supporters.

These include president Nicolas Maduro's wife and senior figures from his party.

The vote took place amid ongoing anti-government violence.

Over 100 people have been killed by the opposition or the state, including ten on election day.

The boycott and its limited success show the right's continuing unpopularity. Its leaders couldn't risk standing and couldn't dissuade millions from voting for Maduro's candidates.

Venezuela is now seeing economic and social devastation. But this hasn't overcome the legacy of resentment at the right wing elite that once ruled the country.

Polls suggest almost half of all Venezuelans support neither the government nor the opposition.

Queuing to vote in Venezuela

The disaffected are mostly the poor and working class people who once rallied behind Maduro's predecessor Hugo Chavez.

Right wing governments in the region refused to recognise Sunday's vote, and US vice president Mike Pence vowed to tighten economic sanctions.

This will hurt the poorest.

For Maduro, the election was successful enough to confer legitimacy on a new constitution.

He wants more powers to deal with the opposition. But such powers will also be used against those with legitimate grievances.

The "Chavismo" that brought relief to Venezuela's poor and hope to the world was built on shaky

foundations that have crumbled.

Chavez rightly diverted much of the windfall from an oil boom to the poor. But he didn't challenge the rule of the market, so when oil prices collapsed they took Venezuela's economy down too.

When the rich tried to topple him, working class mobilisation saved Chavez. Yet watching corrupt and elitist "socialist" governments cut deals with the rich demobilised some working class support.

The right poses a real threat to ordinary people in Venezuela.

But workers and the poor acting for themselves can create a movement that could pose a real alternative.

Be fair on Dunkirk

YOUR REVIEW of Dunkirk is so crude and unfair, Leon Trotsky would be turning in his grave (Socialist Worker online, 23 July).

Of course, it's right about the real events when, as the French often claim, the British "fought to the last Frenchman".

But although the film is not an anti-imperialist critique, nor is it pure patriotic propaganda.

The cynicism of the top brass is pointed to when soldiers ask "Where is the RAF?" to defend them.

The film reminded me how young the soldiers were. Many believed they were fighting a people's war against Nazism.

A decent review should note this—and evaluate the film as a work of art.

I think Paul Foot once complained about a hack review of Warren Beatty's film Reds in Socialist Worker. It dismissed the film for not stressing the need for a Leninist party.

To some extent, the review of Dunkirk falls in to the same trap. Readers deserve a lot better.

Ken Muller
North London

Opposable thumbs up

PERHAPS THE latest Planet of the Apes film, reviewed by Saba Shiraz (Socialist Worker, 17 July), is the weakest of the trilogy.

But it doesn't disappoint politically or aesthetically.

It alludes to barbarism that has scarred human history under capitalism, from slavery to fascism and the Vietnam War.

The apes were in a weakened position and Caesar, their heroic leader, lost his political clarity. For us this showed realism. Struggles go up and down, and no leader is infallible.

The apes' collective resistance to oppression still brought inspiring moments. And there's an important exception to Saba's claim that "female apes play no role and are seen as caregivers".

We encourage readers who enjoyed the political message of resistance in the earlier films to see this one and judge it for themselves.

Christian Hogsbjerg and Rebecca Townesend
Leeds



ILLUSTRATION: TIM SANDERS

Just a thought...

Fire neglect is due to racism

THE WEEKS are slipping away and all the signs indicate that the authorities wish the Grenfell fire victims would disappear.

An inquiry will only drain funds away from the victims. It will be a classic fudge—blame all, catch none.

The lack of support for the victims is glaringly obvious. Could it be because the majority are non-white?

Subhash Varambia
Leicester

Troops hated Churchill

YOUR ARTICLE on the myths of Dunkirk reminded me of the sinking of the British ship Lancastria after an attack by the Luftwaffe.

The disaster was so huge that Winston Churchill ordered a media blackout.

My grandad was one of the survivors, and he hated Churchill. Thousands of men died and their families were denied the right of even knowing how or where.

Becca Clarke
on Facebook

●Many accounts of the last months of the Second World War report that "Tommies" became very "bolshie".

They refused orders to undertake actions that were most likely to lead to deaths.

This wasn't much reported, but it became clear in the 1945 election. Churchill and the Tories suffered humiliating defeat—and returning servicemen inflicted the biggest blow.

Ray Hall
on Facebook

Corbyn didn't really retreat

YOU SAID that Jeremy Corbyn "gives ground to the Labour right" over student debt (Socialist Worker, 17 July).

Corbyn never promised to abolish student debt, but to see what could be done about alleviating it.

All the students I was on the stump with recognised this. Why do you repeat the lie that it was a row back when it was simply a restatement of the position?

It might be wrong but it is not a retreat.

Jon Fanning
on Facebook

To defend jobs and planet, our unions must do better

MY GUT response to last week's announcement that new petrol and diesel cars will be banned from 2040 was "too little, too late".

So it was a shock to discover the leaders of my union, Unite, seem to think it too much, too soon.

Assistant general secretary Tony Burke praised the car industry, especially the "close working relationship" between employers and union.

He said nothing should be done to "jeopardise this hard-won success," and called for a "national debate embracing employer, Unite and ministers". He also pointed to Unite's presence in the oil industry.

But fighting climate change requires action, not "debate".

And that means leading a

working class movement strong and confident enough to make climate demands, not cosying up to the bosses and lobbying against anything that might threaten their profits.

If Burke and Len McCluskey want to fight for car industry jobs they can start by leading action.

Unite members at BMW factories held impressive strikes for pay earlier this year.

But Unite left the dispute to peter into defeat. It also failed to lead much of a fightback at Grangemouth oil refinery in 2013.

Environmental campaigners can sometimes be hostile to fossil fuel workers. But a big fightback on the industrial front builds confidence among people fighting for the

environment, as we saw with the "green bans" by Australian building workers in the 1970s.

So never mind caving in to the bosses. I want my union leaders to lead workers' fights for every job, and for massive public investment to turn fossil fuel jobs into climate jobs.

I want them to link the call for climate jobs—solar power plants, home insulation and better public transport—to the fight against job losses and low pay.

The working class isn't just another "stakeholder". It's the force that can overturn society, make it fossil fuel free, and run it in our interests, not the bosses'.

Kim Hunter
Scarborough

Banning opposition to Israel isn't anti-racism

THE LABOUR council in Haringey, north London, voted last week to endorse the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism.

It brands all opposition to the state of Israel as antisemitic.

Part of the motivation was an attempt by the Labour right to put pressure on the left.

As Jewish, Israeli and Muslim activists made

clear on the steps outside, the IHRA definition has nothing to do with fighting racism.

It has much more to do with stifling the campaign to boycott Israel and undermining the support for Jeremy Corbyn.

There was a noisy and angry reception in the gallery when councillors voted, without debate, to accept the motion.

Alan Watts

Haringey Justice for Palestinians

Shame on Trump for trans ban

WHEN DONALD Trump was running for president, he tweeted to "the LGBT community" that "I will fight for you".

Yet now he is stripping away the rights of serving transgender US military personnel. This billionaire conducts his presidency through overt bigotry.

Trump claims that his discriminatory imposition is

merely due to the cost to the military of transitioning-related healthcare. But a study commissioned by the Pentagon found this to be one hundredth of one percent of the military's healthcare budget.

Chrissy Meleady MBE
by email

Just a thought...

TAKING ON THE CUTS

As Bristol's mayor calls for protest against Tory austerity, Sadie Robinson looks at the fight against council cuts

PRESSURE IS growing on Labour councils to fight cuts. All have imposed attacks on workers and services then blamed Tory cuts, sparking angry protests and some strikes.

Now Bristol's Labour mayor has unveiled a plan to lead a delegation to Whitehall and demand an end to council funding cuts. And he wants other councils to join him.

Marvin Rees has written an open letter to council leaders in Birmingham, Cardiff, Glasgow, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle, Nottingham and Sheffield. Together with Bristol these ten make up the "core cities"—and nine are run by Labour councils.

Rees called on them to "harness the mood against austerity and lobby a 'weakened' government on 12 September. He has also asked the People's Assembly (PA) in Bristol to join the action.

It comes as cuts devastate key services across Britain.

Huw Williams is a parent and campaigner in Bristol. He explained that Rees' plan has encouraged activists to push for more resistance.

"The PA in Bristol has said that Rees should lead a demo in the city in September," said Huw. "It feels like this has got legs. The PA meeting last week was very different to what it's normally like. The South West TUC was there, as were regional officials from the Unite and PCS unions."

Huw said Labour members report

big support for the protest in local party meetings.

That's on top of cuts to social care, schools and other key services. At one Bristol primary school, every teacher left at the end of this academic year. The NUT union said workers were "exhausted by overwork".

Bristol City Council is committed to £104 million in cuts by 2022. Councillors plan to slash £33 million this year alone.

The cuts include halving school crossing patrols, closing all but ten libraries and shutting every public toilet. Services to help vulnerable people live independently also face the chop.

Hounding

There is a plan for "faster recovery of housing benefit debt" and an "enforcement team" to collect debt—that means more hounding of poor people.

Over £1 million will be "saved" by slashing a fund that supports people who need short term help to pay for food or



Schools campaign in Bristol. She told Socialist Worker, "I could see these cuts weren't isolated but huge and everywhere."

"Ninety-nine percent of children will be affected. And worse, most people I spoke with seemed to have no idea what was happening or that it was such a crisis situation."

Jazz hopes to "spread awareness, encourage people to actively object, and ultimately try and reverse these cuts".

Parent campaigner Rish from nearby South Gloucestershire told Socialist Worker, "We've lost so many good teachers. You can see the writing on the wall."

Parents and children have also protested against the cuts to school crossing patrols. Last

month over 150 blocked a main road into Bristol for around half an hour.

The council is so rattled that the Lord Mayor of Bristol, Jeff Lovell, denounced protesters as "a disease".

It is this anger that has led to the shift by Rees. Tellingly his letter said, "If we don't lead this energy, someone else will."

In Bristol Rees and Labour councillors think involving people in deciding which cuts to make will somehow lessen the impact.

Rees told a recent consultation meeting that people had to make "internal self-sacrifice".

But this accepts that there is a need for cuts when many people rightly want none at all. As Rish put it, "They're trying to pass the buck. So they might say we'll keep the toilets

but we'll reduce support for homeless people. How is that right?"

Rees has refused to set a "no cuts" budget. But when the Tories are on the backfoot, a coordinated refusal by councils to implement any cuts at all would seriously deepen their crisis.

It is long past the time that Labour's national leadership

launched its long-promised national campaign over council cuts and urged the unions and local communities to mobilise with them.

Big meetings during Bristol

council's "consultation" have seen people heckle Rees. "There is anger towards the mayor," said

Huw. "But there's also a sense that he's 'one of us'. If Rees leads protests that has the potential to mobilise a large number of Labour Party people."

Councils that refuse to go along with cuts would be in a very strong position. If Rees refused to implement cuts he would get mass support. And it would put the crisis back with the government."

The cuts are politicising more and more people. As Rish put it, "Before I had a vague interest in politics. But now I just see the injustice everywhere."

The September protest already has the backing of Bristol Labour, the South West regions of the TUC and the Unite and PCS unions, Fair Funding For All Schools Bristol and the NAHT headteachers' union Bristol.

Bristol PA hopes that anti-austerity groups elsewhere will protest on the same day. It said the protests

"could lead to a wave of campaigning in cities being hit badly by cuts".



'It's just another stress'

IN SOUTH Gloucestershire the council has increased council tax—claiming this is partly to "ringfence" adult social care spending.

But ordinary people are paying more for less and vulnerable people are suffering.

Rish is a parent and campaigner against school cuts.

She told Socialist Worker, "My mum is disabled, partially sighted and has limited mobility. She gets five hours of support—to take her to appointments, help with shopping, changing the bedding and so on."

"Her contribution to that support has recently gone up by 70 percent."

"But I don't see any increased pay for her carer."

Rish explained that the amount of care available isn't enough for what's needed. "There's a lot of things that social services won't help with," she said. "But working full time there's only so much we can do."

"It's really hard."

"I do a lot for my mum. I give her injections every day."

"And now I have to do a lot of the admin for the support she receives from the council."

"I'm having to manage the time sheets and deal with paying the company."

"It's just another stress."

Rish worried about the impact of the cuts on people who have less support. "They are pushing responsibility for care back onto families," she said.

"All that's going to do is produce more vulnerable people."

All out for Manchester

THE PEOPLE'S Assembly has called a national protest at the Tory party conference in Manchester on 1 October. It's a real chance to deepen the crisis of Theresa May's government and help force it out.

Coaches are already booked and being filled from across Britain including from London, Birmingham, Bristol, Leeds, Portsmouth and Barnsley.

The Unison union has now backed the demonstration.

The Portsmouth City branch signed up 20 people for its coach on one pay protest last month.

Jon Woods is branch chair. He said, "We think we'll need at least two coaches from Portsmouth. We are encouraging other union branches to book coaches.

"And we plan a public meeting in September to publicise the demo."

"The pay cap is a big mobilising factor for people. It's a long journey—we'll have to leave at 6.30am—but lots of people feel they have to be in Manchester."

Mandate

PCS union general secretary Mark Serwotka told Socialist Worker the Tories had "lost their mandate to govern in June and we need to keep the pressure on them".

He said, "An immediate challenge is the struggle to end the public sector pay cap. All workers can unite around this."

"If we march together and strike together we can break the pay cap."

In Barnsley some 15 people signed up for a coach to Manchester on a recent "May Must Go" demo. George Arthur, assistant secretary of the trades council, said, "We've got 22 people so far and we're planning more events at the end of the summer to publicise it."

"We have a cut-out of Theresa May that we encourage people to put messages on. It's a good way of attracting attention."

The Unite union is putting on coaches in Birmingham.

Bridget Parsons from the local PA group said, "Unite has said that the PA can block book seats on the coaches. Mark Serwotka is speaking at public meeting in September to publicise the demo. And we have an organising meeting next week."

"It's looking good as quite a few striking bin workers are coming. Other workers in dispute are getting involved too."

NATIONAL DEMO AGAINST THE TORIES SUNDAY 1 OCTOBER

Take back Manchester festival

Saturday
30 September till Wednesday 4 October,
Manchester
thepeoplesassembly.org.uk

WHAT WE STAND FOR

These are the core politics of the Socialist Workers Party.

INDEPENDENT WORKING CLASS ACTION

Under capitalism workers' labour creates all profit. A socialist society can only be constructed when the working class seizes control of the means of production and democratically plans how they are used.

REVOLUTION NOT REFORM

The present system cannot be patched up or reformed as the established Labour and trade union leaders say.

It has to be overthrown.

Capitalism systematically degrades the natural world. Ending environmental crisis means creating a new society.

THERE IS NO PARLIAMENTARY ROAD

The structures of the present parliament, army, police and judiciary cannot be taken over and used by the working class. They grew up under capitalism and are designed to protect the ruling class against the workers.

The working class needs an entirely different kind of state—a workers' state based upon councils of workers' delegates and a workers' militia.

At most parliamentary activity can be used to make propaganda against the present system.

Only the mass action of the workers themselves can destroy the system.

INTERNATIONALISM

The struggle for socialism is part of a worldwide struggle. We campaign for solidarity with workers in other countries.

We oppose everything which turns workers from one country against those from other countries.

We oppose racism and imperialism. We oppose all immigration controls.

We support the right of black people and other oppressed groups to organise their own defence. We support all genuine national liberation movements.

The experience of Russia demonstrates that a socialist revolution cannot survive in isolation in one country.

In Russia the result was state capitalism, not socialism. In Eastern Europe and China a similar system was later established by Stalinist parties. We support the struggle of workers in these countries against both private and state capitalism.

We are for real social, economic and political equality of women. We are for an end to all forms of discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

We defend the right of believers to practise their religion without state interference.

THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

To achieve socialism the most militant sections of the working class have to be organised into a revolutionary socialist party.

Such a party can only be built by activity in the mass organisations of the working class.

We have to prove in practice to other workers that reformist leaders and reformist ideas are opposed to their own interests. We have to build a rank and file movement within the unions.

To join us, turn to page 16 or go to www.swp.org.uk or phone 020 7840 5602 for more information

{ SOCIALIST WORKER } BRANCH MEETINGS }

Weekly meetings to discuss political issues and our local interventions. All welcome.

ABERDEEN

Work under capitalism—what do we mean by alienation?

Wed 9 Aug, 6pm, Belmont Cinema Cafe, 49 Belmont St, AB10 1JS

BARNSLEY

Britain turns left—what next for the movement?

Thu 10 Aug, 7pm, YMCA, Blucher St, S70 1AP

BIRMINGHAM: CITY CENTRE

Ideology—where do ideas come from?

Wed 9 Aug, 7pm, Birmingham LGBT Centre, 38/40 Holloway Circus, B1 1EQ

BRIGHTON

How do we fight for a left Brexit?

Thu 10 Aug, 7.30pm, Friends Meeting House, Ship St, BN1 1AF

BRISTOL

Marxism and ideology

Wed 9 Aug, 7.30pm, YHA, 14 Narrow Quay, BS1 4QA

CAMBRIDGE

Who were the Wobblies? What are the lessons for today?

Thu 10 Aug, 7.30pm, River Lane Centre, River Lane, CB5 8HP

CHESTERFIELD

Do we need more police?

Thu 10 Aug, 7.30pm, Chesterfield Library, New Beetwell St, S40 1QN

DONCASTER

Marxism and mental health

Wed 9 Aug, 7.30pm, The Women's Centre (Changing Lives), 5 Princes St, DN1 3NJ

DUDLEY

Why the right wing exploit sex

Wed 9 Aug, 8pm, The What Centre, 23 Coventry St, Stourbridge, DY8 1EP

LONDON: EALING

Football and fascism—show racism the red card

Thu 10 Aug, 7.30pm, Y Lounge, YMCA West London, 25 St Mary's Rd, W5 2RE

DUNDEE

Where now for a second independence referendum?

Wed 9 Aug, 7.30pm, Dundee Voluntary Action, 10 Constitution Rd, DD1 1LL

EDINBURGH

What are the origins of racism?

Wed 9 Aug, 7.30pm, Friends Meeting House, 7 Victoria St, EH1 2JL

ESSEX

Soviets or parliament—socialism and democracy

Thu 7 Sep, 7.30pm, Friends Meeting House, Rainsford Rd, CM1 2QL

GLASGOW

50 years after the 1967 Act—fighting for LGBT+ liberation

Thu 10 Aug, 7pm, Avant Garde, 33-44 King St, Merchant City, G1 5QT

HUDDERSFIELD

Can the Tory government survive?

Wed 9 Aug, 6.30pm, Brian Jackson House, 2 New North Parade (near both train and bus stations), HD1 5JP

LEEDS: CITY CENTRE

Pride, politics and protest—fighting for LGBT+ liberation

Thu 10 Aug, 7pm, The Swarthmore Education Centre, 2-7 Woodhouse Square, LS3 1AD

LONDON: BRENT AND HARROW

What would socialism be like?

Thu 10 Aug, 7.30pm, The Pepperpot Centre, 1a Thorpe Close, Ladbroke Grove (very close to the station), W10 5XL

LONDON: BRIXTON

Bring down the borders—why we oppose all immigration controls

Wed 9 Aug, 7pm, Vida Walsh Centre, 2b Saltoun Rd (near Effra Rd, facing Windrush Square), SW12 1EP

LONDON: EALING

Football and fascism—show racism the red card

Thu 10 Aug, 7.30pm, Y Lounge, YMCA West London, 25 St Mary's Rd, W5 2RE

SOCIALIST WORKER PUBLIC MEETINGS



Lenin for today

BRADFORD

Thu 10 Aug, 7pm, Glyde House, Little Horton Lane, BD5 0BQ

BURNEY AND PENDLE

Wed 9 Aug, 7.30pm, Red Triangle Cafe, 160 St James's St, BB11 1NR

SOUTHAMPTON

Wed 9 Aug, 7.30pm, Central Baptist Church Hall, Devonshire Rd, SO15 2GY

NEWCASTLE

Abortion—why socialists defend a woman's right to choose

Wed 9 Aug, 7pm, Wild Bytes Cafe, Darlington St, WV1 4HW

YORK

The future for LGBT+ identity and rights

Wed 9 Aug, 7.30pm, Sea Horse Hotel, 4 Fawcett St, YO10 4AH

MOVEMENT EVENTS

DORCHESTER

Fighting the new racism

Sat 2 Sep, 1.30pm, Colliton Club, Colliton Park, DT1 1XJ. Organised by Dorset Socialists

SOUTH LONDON

The Battle of Lewisham—how we stopped the Nazi National Front

12 Aug, 1-4.30pm, Clifton Rise, SE14. Anniversary march organised by Unite Against Fascism. More details at bit.ly/2tQytr5

NATIONAL

Demonstration at the Tory party conference

Sun 1 Oct, Manchester. Called by the People's Assembly. thepeoplesassembly.org.uk

Stand Up To Racism conference—confronting the rise in racism

Sat 21 Oct, 10.30am-4.30pm, Friends Meeting House, Euston Rd, London NW1 2BJ. Organised by Stand Up To Racism. standuptoracism.org.uk

Celebrating DAY CONFERENCE

Saturday 4 November 2017

10.30am-5.30pm

£10 / £5 concessions.

Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church, 235 Shaftesbury Avenue, London WC2H 8EP

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Tragedy rubs shoulders with controversy at arts festival

As the Edinburgh Festival prepares to open its many doors, theatre critic **Mark Brown** offers some highlights of the biggest arts festival on the planet

AS SO often with the world's biggest celebration of the arts, this year's Edinburgh Festival has been caught up in political controversy before it has even begun.

Palestine solidarity activists are calling for a boycott of the so-called "Shalom Festival". This is an event created by pro-Israel campaigners, likely with the assistance of the Israeli state itself.

It aims to roll back the gains of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement in recent years.

Filmmaker Ken Loach is among the signatories to an open letter supporting the boycott of the event.

It includes Incubator Theatre, the state-funded Israeli company which was the subject of a successful boycott in Edinburgh in 2014.

It is noticeable that artists representing the Israeli state have no difficulty obtaining visas to come to Britain.

Crisis

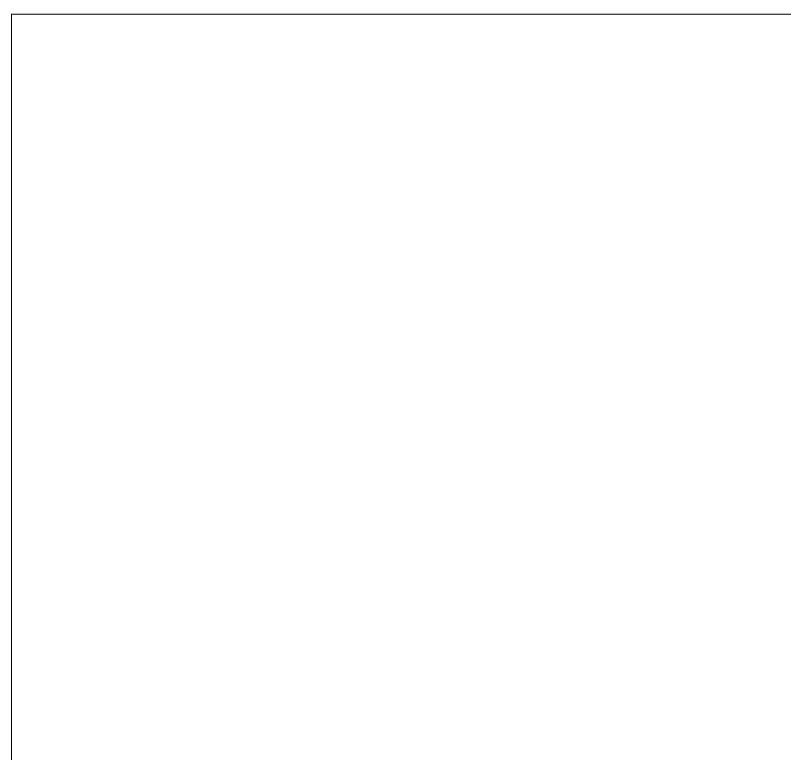
Meanwhile, the Summerhall venue's programme of work from the Arab world is facing a crisis as the British authorities have refused the visa applications of many of the artists involved.

The term "Edinburgh Festival" is shorthand for a group of festivals.

These include the Edinburgh International Festival (EIF), the Festival Fringe and the International Book Festival.

The prestigious programme of the EIF always has exciting productions, and this year is no exception.

There are no fewer than three shows from the superb



PEOPLE COME from across the world to attend the Edinburgh Festival



British authorities have refused the visa applications of many of the artists involved

playwright Zinnie Harris. They include Rhinoceros (Lyceum, 3-12 August), her adaptation of great French-Romanian playwright Eugene Ionesco's absurdist classic about conformism in the face of authoritarianism.

Directed by Turkish theatremaker Murat Daltaban, it is bound to resonate with current events under the Erdogan crackdown in Turkey.

The revival of This Reckless House

TELEVISION

GAME OF THRONES SEASON SEVEN

Available to stream legally online

THE SEVENTH season of Game of Thrones is well underway and has been met with much rejoicing from fans.

In a society where people often feel powerless it's easy to see why some of the characters are so popular.

Take Jon Snow for instance—he started out as a "bastard" child who was treated as a second class citizen and became

a leader, defying all expectations.

One of the other aspects that has kept people watching is that any of the characters can die at any time. The show is extremely violent and this reflects a society that has become accustomed to everyday violence.

Even as an activist who is against war and state violence, I found myself getting excited when characters I hate meet a gruesome end.

The show has also shown itself to be quite sexist. Graphic rape scenes are completely unnecessary and the

sexualisation of women's bodies over those of men adds nothing to the plot.

Although characters like Arya and Sansa kick ass and grow in confidence throughout the series, that

doesn't justify showing women's bare chests in every other episode.

The fact of it is, the show doesn't actually need to objectify women to get ratings and this really

shows us there are still huge sexist divisions in society.

I honestly don't know many people who watch it to see women naked.

People are more interested in the plots of revenge or seeing if the underdogs can come out victorious.

There is still a long way to go in the fight against women being objectified for entertainment.

Let's hope one day HBO gets the message and can produce a show that doesn't feel the need to constantly feature women as sexual objects.

Jasmine Francis

Sansa Stark (Sophie Turner) and Jon Snow (Kit Harington)

MUSIC

THE JOURNEYMAN

by Goldie

Out now

Available at bit.ly/2vMrTR4

DRUM AND bass kingpin Goldie returns with his new album The Journeyman.

He describes it as the "big brother" to his seminal 1995 album Timeless.

The seemingly unstoppable creative force that Goldie harnessed in the 1990s helped push drum and bass out of the underground and to the fringes of the mainstream.

This resulted in some embarrassing episodes for him, perhaps the worst of which was appearing in a James Bond film.

But he has redeemed himself lately by nurturing newer talent such as Om Unit, Lenzman and Jubee.

The Journeyman could be taken as a marker of the journey drum and bass music has been on, from the underground to the edge of popular culture.

Artists who have ventured into making drum and bass for pop music

Goldie

audiences have met with varying degrees of success.

What success they have met with has tended to be short-lived.

But Goldie and the artists on his label Metalheadz have largely avoided such pitfalls, concentrating on making complex underground music instead of stadium anthems.

New artists such as Ulterior Motive feature on the album, co-producing the stand out track I Adore You.

While the new album doesn't measure up to Timeless, it would be remarkable if it had.

Tracks from the 1995 album came out of intense periods of self-reflection. Sea of Tears was written on Brighton beach after hearing of the death of a family member.

The Journeyman is a return to form for Goldie after some years of pretension and dodgy productions.

Goldie brings his new album on tour with the Heritage Orchestra at the Roundhouse in north London on 19 November

THE Sexual Offences Act, which decriminalised sex between men in private, was passed 50 years ago last week. The year before it was passed some 420 men were arrested for "gross indecency".

The law is rightly heralded as a landmark in the fight for LGBT+ rights.

It was part of a much bigger social upheaval taking place—and a harbinger of the mass movements for women's and gay liberation that followed after 1968.

Two months later the Abortion Act granted women the right to choose. Then in 1969 the Divorce Reform Act stopped divorce being the preserve of wealthy men.

The Sexual Offences Act had a real, transformative effect on the lives of some male couples.

Antony Grey, one of the founders of the Homosexual Law Reform Society (HLRS), described what it was like for him and his partner before.

After a drunk ploughed into their car at night he said, "The first thing we had to do was make up the spare bed".

"We knew from experience that if you called the police and they suspected you were homosexual, they would ignore the original crime and concentrate on the homosexuality," he explained.

But the gains the Act brought were limited.

After it was passed, criminal convictions actually soared by more than 400 percent to 1,711 in 1974. And homophobic legislation was not fully repealed until 2013.

Hidden

The law also aimed to keep homosexuality hidden.

As Tory peer Lord Arran, one of the bill's sponsors, made clear, "I ask those [homosexuals] to show their thanks by comporting themselves quietly and with dignity."

"Any form of ostentatious behaviour or public flaunting would be utterly distasteful."

These contradictions flowed from how the law came about.

There were groups, such as the HLRS, that had bravely fought for reform throughout the 1950s and 1960s. But change was not wrenched from the hands of the ruling class by a powerful mass movement.

This would only come later. The Gay Liberation Front (GLF) in Britain was not founded until 1970 and the first Pride march in London took place in 1972.

By 1967 a ruling class offensive against homosexual rights that began after the Second World War was beginning to break down.

As late as 1965, Tory former home secretary Sir Maxwell Fyfe insisted, "I am not going down in history as the man who made sodomy legal."



In the 1961 film *Victim*, Dirk Bogarde plays a middle class man who is blackmailed over allegations of homosexuality

A BEGINNING OF THE END FOR SHAME

The Sexual Offences Act of 1967 didn't stop gay oppression in Britain—but it was an early indication of revolts that won much more, writes Tomáš Tengely-Evans



Tory peer Lord Arran

Before that Metropolitan Police commissioner Sir John Nott Bower, returned from a stint in the police service in British imperial India to repress people at home too.

Nott Bower pledged to "sweep all homosexuals out of government"—resulting in a purge of thousands from their jobs.

But the sexual repression of the 1950s had been preceded by a period of relative sexual freedom during the Second World

After the 1967 Act was passed, criminal convictions actually soared

War. The right's postwar backlash couldn't simply undo the process behind this opening up.

This process is key to understanding how the law came about and its limitations.

Right wing ideas around sexuality centre on the notion that sex is for procreation, not fun or intimacy. This doesn't just spring from right wingers' heads—it flows from the needs of capitalism.

Not content with searching for reds under the bed, the Tories now went looking for

to produce the next generation of workers, instead of sending women and children to work.

This nuclear family was a key institution for regulating sexual "morality".

Anything that deviated, be it women's autonomy or same sex relationships, was seen as a threat to the nuclear family.

It was during the Industrial Revolution that abortion rights were restricted and the term "homosexuality" first appeared.

But while the nuclear family remains important to capitalism, the form it takes has changed as the needs of capitalism change.

THE WAR undermined the rigid nature of the nuclear family. Large numbers of men joined the armed forces. Women joined the workforce, and evacuating children from the cities alleviated the burden of childcare for many women.

According to a Mass Observation Survey (MOS) conducted within the Royal Army Medical Corps, sexual activity between male soldiers was openly taking place. The MOS observer noted that some men were already "well versed in these arts".

Women drafted into the Land Army as agricultural labour also had more opportunities to explore their sexuality.

A probation officer described the scene in an air raid shelter. There were "youngsters in their teens, of mixed sexes, making up their beds together on the floors of public shelters even under parents' eye".

After the war all this was viewed as a serious problem by the ruling class.

Historian Joshua Levine's *The Secret History of the Blitz* details the growing openness about sex during the war. Reviewing it, the Daily Mail newspaper complained that the "Blitz sent Britain sex mad".

Panic

A similar moral panic was whipped up by right wingers at the time.

David R Mace of the Marriage Guidance Council summed up their fears in the right wing Spectator magazine. "Never in human history has family life suffered disintegration upon a scale commensurate with that which the past six years had witnessed," he complained.

"We must inculcate, through every educational agency at our disposal, sound values and high ideals."

The Cold War was also taking hold with the US Senator Joseph McCarthy waging a campaign against "communists" and "deviants". After the defection of two homosexual British spies to Russia, Winston Churchill's Tory government also went on the attack.

From the late 19th century capital had relied on the family

reds in the bed. But as arrests soared to more than 1,000 every year, the official position was becoming increasingly untenable.

One case rocked the ruling class because it involved prominent people from its own ranks.

They were Tory peer Lord Montagu of Beaulieu, Daily Mail royal correspondent Peter Wildblood and the prominent capitalist Michael Pitt-Rivers.

After a beach-hut party, all three were convicted for "conspiracy to incite male persons to commit serious offences with male persons" or "buggery".

As a result of their trial the Tory government set up the Wolfenden Committee, with the intention of reinforcing the status quo.

Widely known as the "Vice report" it also dealt with the rise of prostitution, which it blamed on a "weakening of the family".

Another result of Wolfenden was the Street Offences Act 1959 and a crackdown on women who worked as prostitutes.

But despite its original intention, the committee sensationally came out for limited decriminalisation of homosexuality.

Hypocrisy

The Montagu trial had exposed the hypocrisy of the British state's position.

Lord Arran was asked why his homosexual reform had passed while another bill to protect badgers had failed. He quipped, "There are not many badgers in the House of Lords."

A growing section of the middle classes, and some ruling class figures who wanted freedoms for the rich, put their weight behind liberal reforms.

David Astor, the radical liberal editor of the once Tory Observer newspaper, came out for homosexual law reform.

Wildblood himself, now sacked from the Daily Mail, published *Against the Law* in 1955 about the trial.

Campaigns such as the HLRS added to growing pressure on the people at the top of society.

These reformers didn't want to mount a serious challenge to the capitalist status quo, but were sometimes affected by the repression.

Through a private members' bill, the Wolfenden recommendations were finally implemented in 1967.

The likes of Lord Arran did not want sexual openness. But the stuffy old Toryism, with its deference for a crumbling

empire and aristocracy, seemed more and more out of place with the needs of modern capitalism.

And working class people, told they'd "never had it so good", were losing patience.

While the new welfare state was partly designed to help strengthen the family, it also alleviated some of women's burdens in the home and spurred on the wartime changes.

The election of Harold Wilson's Labour government in 1964 was another sign of this mood.

These tensions would spill out in the mass movements of 1968 and beyond.

Far from winning gratitude for limited reforms, the Sexual Offences Act spurred on a battle from below to win much bigger gains.

THE Second World War (top) brought people together in new situations. The first Pride march took place in London in 1972 (above)

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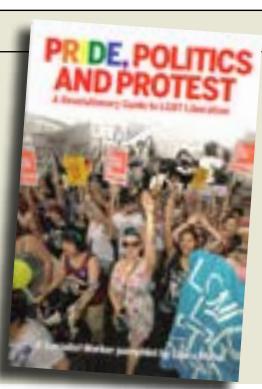
Far from winning gratitude for limited reforms, the Sexual Offences Act spurred on a battle from below to win much bigger gains.

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● **Over the rainbow—Money, class and homophobia** by Nicola Field £15.99

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1917 RUSSIAN REVOLUTION

A glimpse of how we can uproot women's oppression



ALEXANDRA KOLLONTAI at a congress of communist women

1917 TIMELINE

Starting 24 July (6 August by the modern calendar)

- The second coalition government is formed
- The Mensheviks, Cadets, and Socialist Revolutionaries join it
- Alexander Kerensky appoints himself president

women and making sure issues of women's liberation were not sidelined. The party held a women's congress in November 1918.

About 300 women were expected but 1,150 turned up.

In 1919 Lenin said, "In the course of two years of soviet power in one of the most backward countries, more had been done to emancipate women than during the past 130 years by all the 'democratic' republics."

Ideological

The revolution had mixed together material changes in women's lives with a sharp ideological battle to beat back sexism.

But as the revolution retreated and then was defeated, the gains were abolished.

In 1936 legal abortion was abolished, and divorce made much more difficult. The regime trumpeted, "Marriage is ... a lifelong union ... Moreover, marriage receives its full value for the state only if there is children."

The defeat of attempts by women to win their freedom was one signal of grim rise of a new bureaucratic class running a state capitalist regime.

It was confirmation of Bolshevik Inessa Armand's slogan, "If the emancipation of women is unthinkable without communism, then communism is unthinkable without the full emancipation of women."

This is part of a series of weekly articles on the Russian Revolution tinyurl.com/sw1917

Communal institutions helped free women from 'women's work'

Israel backs down on Al Aqsa clampdown

by TOMÁŠ TENGELY-EVANS

MASS PROTESTS last Friday forced Israeli forces to reopen the Al Aqsa mosque to all worshippers.

The mosque compound, in occupied East Jerusalem, was closed off last month as part of a fresh Israeli crackdown on Palestinians in the West Bank.

Israeli security forces then installed metal detectors.

Thousands refused to go through the security checks. They prayed on the streets outside in protest.

Israel removed the security devices on Thursday of last week fearing a mass demonstration during evening prayers the following Friday.

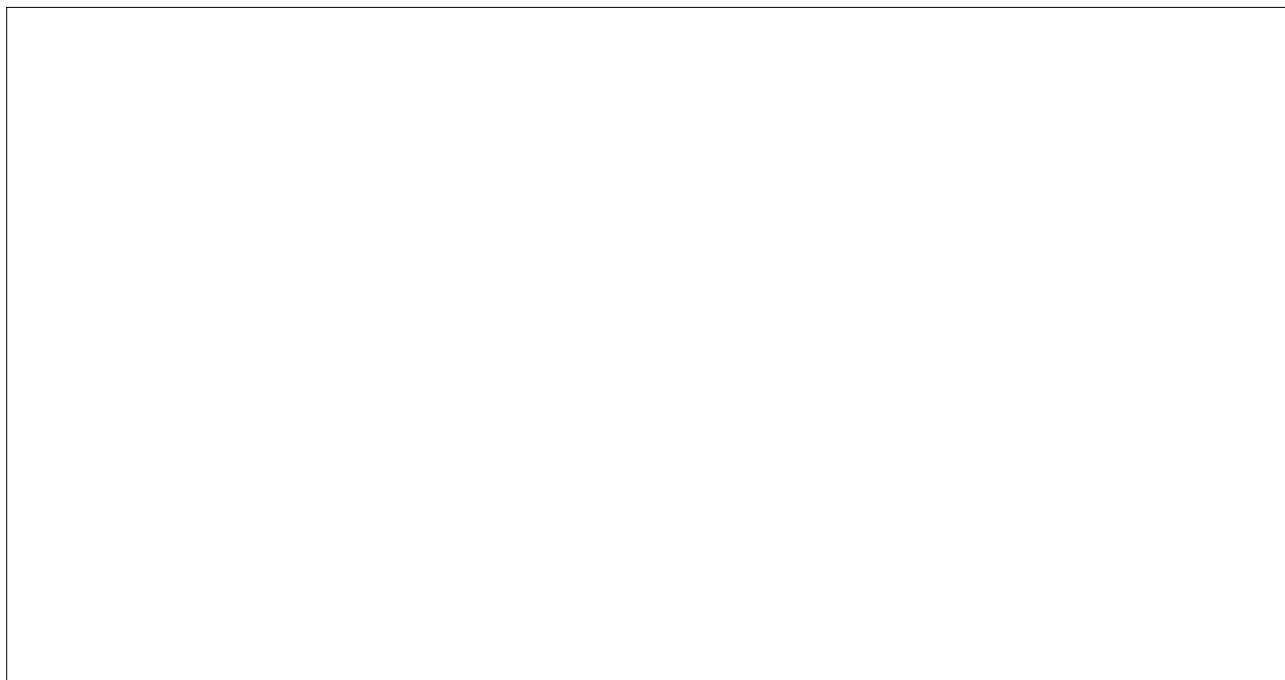
It partially opened the mosque to worshippers over the age of 50 on Friday lunchtime.

Concession

But this partial concession spurred further opposition.

Some 10,000 came to pray at the mosque and in the streets outside.

Israeli border troops were still blocking the Huta Gate, one of its main entrances.



Troops then fired stun grenades and rubber bullets into the crowd—including inside the compound.

But the numbers forced Israel to fully reopen the mosque by last Friday evening.

Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu is trying to play a longer game, preparing for a potential clash in the Gaza Strip.

The West Bank is run by the Fatah faction and the Gaza Strip by its rival Hamas.

Egyptian dictator Abdel Fatah el-Sisi is manoeuvring to install Mohammed Dahlan as prime minister in Gaza.

After Hamas won elections in 2006, Dahlan tried to stage a coup on behalf of Fatah with US and Israeli back-

ing. He now leads opposition within Fatah to the ailing Palestinian Authority (PA) president Mahmoud Abbas.

Abbas, who has failed to lead resistance to the occupation, is discredited among many ordinary Palestinians.

Israel is increasingly worried that Abbas will not be able to keep a lid on resistance.

But Dahlan has also made populist noises about ending security cooperation with Israel in the West Bank.

Backlash

Netanyahu's concession has caused a right wing backlash from Israeli politicians.

Education minister Naftali Bennett said, "Every time that Israel strategically caves, we get an intifada."

Netanyahu tried to appease Bennett and her allies with talk of a new clampdown.

He promised the death penalty for a Palestinian who killed three Israelis last week.

Israel has only used the death penalty once before—against Adolf Eichman, a Nazi SS officer and key architect of the Holocaust.

Around 200 worshippers and Palestinian supporters took to the Forest Recreation Ground in Nottingham last week in a show of solidarity.

Activists also joined a solidarity protest in Birmingham.

Palestinians will need our continuing solidarity.

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Care firms grab subsidy as workers get peanuts

by RAYMIE KIERNAN

THE TORY government confirmed it will “temporarily suspend” enforcement of minimum wage rules for big care firms last week, following corporate lobbying. And it has potentially handed them a huge subsidy.

The move follows employment tribunal (ET) rulings ordering firms to pay staff the minimum wage for sleep-in shifts. Workers can now claim back pay for sleep-in shifts for up to six years.

The total arrears due to care staff is estimated at £400 million. Yet care bosses pleaded poverty and asked the Tories for help—and help they did.

Companies were told that until 2 October there would be no enforcement action concerning the payment for sleep-in shifts.

It was unclear whether firms would be hit with any penalty if they continued to underpay workers over the next few months.

Bosses face HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) penalties of up to 200 percent of arrears for not paying the minimum wage.

Yet the Tories said HMRC officials will waive any historic fines owed by employers for underpaying staff for sleep-ins before 26 July 2017.

This potentially hands a subsidy of several hundred millions pounds to firms that have paid workers as little as they thought they could get away with.

Exceptional

The Tories have said nothing about when workers will receive their back pay. Their “exceptional measures” won’t help a social care sector already broken by a toxic mix of privatisation and Tory austerity.

According to the Unison union care workers are “collectively cheated” out of £130 million in wages each year.

Doncaster care worker Theresa spoke to Socialist Worker straight off a nine-hour sleep-in shift that she was paid just £25 for.

That’s less than £2.80 an hour.

Did she sleep? “Not a lot,” Theresa said. “You nod off now and then but with half an eye and half an ear open. You are technically at work. You can’t leave and you’re on duty all the time so we should be paid properly for that.”

“These companies are making a lot of money—they can afford to pay us more.”

Care is big business with many of the biggest firms run by private equity funds. Bosses went on the offensive calling on the government to help them out after they were left facing a huge bill.

These firms have milked profits



WORKERS ARE forced to fight over pay while bosses rake it in

PICTURE: JESS HURD/REPORTDIGITAL.CO.UK

Defeat for Tories in Wales

THE TRADE UNION (WALES) Bill was passed in the Welsh Assembly last month.

Unless the chief law officers for the Welsh or Westminster governments challenge it in the Supreme Court before 15 August it will become law.

The bill means certain provisions of the Tory Trade Union Act won’t apply to devolved authorities in Wales.

The requirement for 40 percent of all eligible workers in an “important” public service to back action for it to be legal would not apply.

But the 50 percent turnout required for all ballots would remain.

The bill will remove the requirement for the publication of information on trade union facility time.

It would also lift restrictions on the deduction of union subscriptions from wages by employers.

The bill prohibits bosses from hiring temporary workers to scab on a strike, unless it is unofficial action.

This is in anticipation that the Tories may try and make it legal for bosses to hire scabs.

The Scottish government has spouted many fine words of opposition to the Tories’ anti-union bill. The Welsh bill shows up its lack of action to follow that up.

Anti-union fees are ‘unlawful’

THE TORIES’ system of employment tribunal (ET) fees “effectively prevents access to justice”, is “unlawful” and “must be quashed”.

That’s the view of seven of Britain’s most senior judges.

It should be a spur to win over cuts to legal aid—and to beat the wider anti-union laws.

A Supreme Court judgement last week argued that the system was “from the outset, destined to infringe constitutional rights”.

The ruling is a major legal victory for workers seeking some legal redress for claims such as unfair dismissal, equal pay or discrimination at work.

Fees of up to £1,200 for



Unison’s Dave Prentis celebrates

workers to have their case heard were introduced in 2013.

The Unison union argued that ET fees discriminated against women and other groups, a view supported by the judges.

Unison said the government will now have to cough up more than £27 million to the thousands of workers charged for taking claims to tribunals.

The government had argued that people could afford the fees if they gave up items such as alcohol, new clothes and social events. The Supreme Court rejected that.

This is a welcome victory, but we can’t rely on ETs or the courts.

We need organisation, campaigns, protests and strikes to win.

Read more at bit.ly/2tPrwR

FIGURE IT OUT

22%

of people who contacted arbitrators Acas about a dispute did not go on to make an ET claim prior to fees

80%

did not do so by the second year of the fees system

43%

Drop in the number of ETs between 2013 and 2015/16



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reports@socialistworker.co.uk

IN BRIEF
No to Trump's attacks on trans

AROUND 40 people protested outside the US embassy in London last week following the announcement by Donald Trump that transgender people were no longer welcome in the military.

Organiser Robbie Platt, an executive member of the UK chapter of Democrats Abroad, told Socialist Worker "We want to show solidarity with the transgender community."

"An infringement of one of our rights is an infringement of all of our rights."

Socialists must stand against all oppression—while pointing out that the US military is the greatest killing machine in the world.

Cheers for action at Chivas whisky firm

UNITE UNION members at whisky makers Chivas in Dumbarton are set to strike for 24 hours from 7.30am next Monday.

Workers voted to reject the company's four year pay offer. They would get a 1.5 percent rise in year one and the rate of inflation for the next three years.

Unite says some staff at the Kilmalid site in Dumbarton are paid £900 a year less than those at the Paisley site.

Picturehouse ready for new strikes

WORKERS AT five Picturehouse cinema sites in London were set to strike from 4pm on Friday and all day Saturday. This is an escalation of their dispute for the Living Wage.

The strike follows a day of action last Saturday which saw workers join community supporters.

Sign the support petition here bit.ly/2ubPHft

Defending jobs and children's services

THE GMB union is to ballot members working in children's services at Coventry council for industrial action.

The council is holding a consultation on restructuring the service. One of the options includes plans to shut 14 children's centres, with the loss of 100 jobs, and replace them with four "family hubs".

All council-run nursery provision could also end.

At a union meeting last week of over 150 people, workers overwhelmingly backed a ballot.

Post Office workers demand pay voice

CWU UNION members in Post Offices are voting on whether to reject an imposed 2 percent pay offer.

Workers should vote to reject the deal.

The ballot closes on Tuesday 22 August.

CIVIL SERVICE WORKERS

Protests against the pay cap

CIVIL SERVICE workers in the revenue and customs department held protests across Britain on Monday.

This was the day that a 1 percent pay deal was imposed.

The protests, organised by the PCS union, urged the government and department chief executive Jon Thompson to lift the pay cap.

Other protests are planned involving other departments later in the year. And PCS

members in all departments will be consulted in the autumn on whether they are prepared to take industrial action over pay.

PCS is one of the unions backing a pay protest in London on 12 October.

Campaigning by PCS and other public sector unions led the Scottish Government to announce last week that it will remove the 1 percent pay cap from 2018.

The cap needs to go now.



RALLYING IN Cumbernauld

PICTURE: PCS CUMBERNAULD

HOUSING WORKERS

Mears workers will not give up the battle

by CELIA HUTCHISON

WORKERS WERE on the move in central Manchester on Friday of last week, as strikers from Mears housing came to the town hall instead of mounting a picket.

Around 50 Unite union members rallied at the town hall where they had been told bosses would be meeting with councillors.

The 170 former council workers are employed by contractor Mears to maintain council homes run by arms-length management organisation Northwards.

They are in their fourth week of continuous strike for pay parity with workers in other parts of the group, after weeks of discontinuous weekly strikes.

They are due to return to work on Monday of next week.

After rallying at the town hall, workers marched around it. Then, sick of being ignored by the mainstream media, they



On the Mears picket line

PICTURE: MARK KRANTZ

marched through the city to the offices of the Manchester Evening News.

The strikers have met tenants' organisations to explain why workers are on strike.

They have also had a leafletting campaign to inform the 12,000 affected tenants what the dispute is about.

Unite is preparing to

re-ballot the workforce, with further industrial action possible in early autumn.

- Send a message of support to colinpit65@hotmail.co.uk
- Donate to the strike fund by cheque, payable to UCATT UD.393 Manchester 1st Branch, c/o, Andy Fisher, Unite, 2 Churchill Way, Liverpool, L3 8EF, or online to account 46034412 sort code 60-83-01.

EDUCATION

A missed opportunity to encourage pay resistance

WORKERS IN the UCU union in higher education have voted to accept a below-inflation pay offer. Bosses had offered just 1.7 percent.

The offer also does nothing to address the gender pay gap or low pay for casual workers.

Some 65 percent voted to accept, on a high turnout of 49 percent. Yet 49 percent also said they were prepared to take industrial action if the offer was rejected.

The vote comes as the Tories are under pressure over the public sector pay cap—and other workers are preparing to fight over pay.

These include UCU members in further education.

Yet the UCU leadership made no recommendation on how workers should vote in the consultation.

It is a missed opportunity to win better pay for tens of thousands of workers.

UCU national executive member Carlo Morelli said in a personal capacity, "A pay campaign with the defence of higher education and the ending of student fees could have broken the government.

"It could have killed off the privatisation set in motion by the passing of the Higher Education and Research Act."

ELECTIONS

THE UCU union has elected a commission to look at industrial action and bargaining strategies. The UCU Left slate, which Socialist Worker supports, was elected in full.

The election follows UCU general secretary Sally Hunt arguing for local action to take on attacks. Hunt told the union's annual congress in May that local disputes had won improvements "that would never be achieved at a national level".

But the union leadership was defeated as members voted for a motion calling for a "national industrial strategy". Delegates also voted for a "special sector conference" in the autumn to "determine a national UCU industrial strategy".

RAIL WORKERS

Strike after union reps face insults during negotiations

WORKERS AT train maintenance company Arriva Traincare were set to walk out on Friday 18 August over their bosses' latest refusal to improve a pay offer.

The RMT union members work at the firm's five depots in Bristol, Cambridge, Crewe, Eastleigh and Gateshead.

RMT general secretary Mick Cash said, "The employer did not table any improvements to their original pay offer. By the close of talks they had resorted to hurling personal insults at the union's negotiating team.

"It is now crystal clear to RMT that the company

are determined to treat our members like dirt."

The union previously led a walkout in May.

Action short of strikes is set to run from 9 to 17 August.

■ The RMT has confirmed that it will be meeting with Southern rail next Monday in the long-running guards' and drivers' disputes over the basic principle of rail safety.

RMT had hoped to get a meeting with the company this week following earlier talks with the secretary of state for transport but this has been delayed.

UBER

Ready for a renewed fight over 'gig economy' rights

TWO WORKERS who brought the landmark employment tribunal case against taxi firm Uber over their bogus self-employment are back in court in September.

Uber bosses have been allowed the right to appeal the decision last year that they should treat their drivers as workers.

The ruling stipulated that Uber drivers should receive the minimum wage and paid holidays and sick pay.

The two workers, Yaseen Aslam and James Farrar, brought the original case to court.

"I think we will win," Yaseen told Socialist Worker. "But the appeal should never have been allowed in the first place. It's an attack on workers."

"We need to push the

government to do the right thing.

"And we also need to let the public know about how things really are out there for people."

The workers' union, the Industrial Workers of Great Britain (IWGB), is set to hold a day of action to highlight workers' conditions on the day of the tribunal, Wednesday 27 September.

The union said, "We are going to march through central London to the Employment Appeal Tribunal in support of our members and all Uber drivers."

"And to show 'gig economy' bosses, the courts and the British public that we will not lie down as our employment rights are taken away."

● For more details of the march and day of action, go to bit.ly/2vl3kOf

FIGHTING NUCLEAR WEAPONS

THE HIGH Court has overturned the convictions of a group of Christian activists who were convicted in January of wilful obstruction of the highway during an anti-Trident protest.

The group, named Put

Down the Sword, joined others in attempting to stop the building of new Trident nuclear missiles.

They were arrested after blocking all vehicle access to the Burghfield Atomic Weapons Establishment.

BRITISH AIRWAYS

BA cabin crew will not be conned by brutish bosses

by DAVE SEWELL

STRIKING CABIN crew have squeezed their first concession out of intransigent British Airways (BA) bosses—and refuse to be conned back to work.

After their current walkout ends on 15 August, Unite union members in BA's "mixed fleet" will have struck for 70 days.

Trying to bribe them back to work, management last week emailed workers offering to restore their staff travel privileges if strikes ended by Tuesday.

This would reinstate one perk that bosses stripped from strikers.

But in an email to members, Unite reps pointed out that strikers were still being denied their bonuses. And they still have a mandate to fight for a real pay rise.

Workers "should not be relying on a food bank or second jobs just to get through each month," they wrote.

"Neither should we be suffering undue stress and depression due to the financial implications of working for a high profiting, premium flag carrier."

Surge

BA last week announced a surge in half-yearly profits to £633 million. It can easily afford a pay rise.

Yet there are pressures on Unite to back down. And some workers were worried when popular union official Matt Smith was promoted away from the dispute.

The Sun newspaper claimed his



BA STRIKERS on the picket line

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

removal was a sop to bosses in the hope of getting a deal.

But it would be wrong to stop short of victory. One striker told Socialist Worker, "The tide is turning.

"BA's share price has gone down—and this is the pivotal moment, the summer peak."

Mixed fleet—crew hired since 2010 on much lower wages than existing workers—are a minority of BA's cabin crew.

But the striker said, "One of the

main weapons companies use against strikes is silence, so that we feel like we're not making a difference and go back to work. And it's bollocks."

The strike is costing millions. Unite should quickly call further action.

And while a war of attrition alone may not deliver victory, the alternative is to escalate.

Unite could mobilise more workers to play an active role in the strike—and spread the fight to include the rest of BA's workforce.

STRIKE VOICE

Organising the longest aviation strike in history

One striker told Socialist Worker, "Workers on worldwide fleet, who are on a bit more money than us, buy people's shopping online.

"That's helped keep the strike going."

Unite also runs a food bank in the Bedfont Football Club that serves as strike headquarters.

And mobilising for protests and picket lines helps resist the psychological strains.

Sustained

"It has been a sustained period of not flying," the striker said. "In our jobs we're used to being away and being tired all the time, so this time off is a bit of a shock."

"And when we're not flying it can feel like we've lost our purpose—it's what we love doing."

"This is why coming to Bedfont is so important. If you stay at home you can start to feel very isolated. Here you have all the support you need."

"It's about staying strong—and staying connected to everyone else."

●Donate to the strikers' hardship fund at sites.google.com/view/mfunite/how-to-support

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Overwork in children's services

OFSTED INSPECTORS said that Kirklees council in West Yorkshire Children's Services staff are "not able to complete all the tasks needed to support children and families effectively".

That's because their "caseloads are too high".

The latest criticism of the council mirrors arguments by the workers' Unison union.

Staff in Children's Services social work teams struck for 48 hours last month.

Rocketing workloads is a key issue in the long-running dispute. Over 25 percent of children's social work staff and over 30 percent of children's social work management are now agency. Staff turnover was also criticised by Ofsted for "impacting adversely on continuity for children".

Among other issues, workers have demanded more permanent staff and an end to the use of agency workers.

BANK OF ENGLAND

Stop Carney laughing all way to Bank

WORKERS PICKETED the Bank of England wearing masks of its rich governor Mark Carney this Tuesday as they began a three-day strike for better pay.

Unite union members in the maintenance, parlours and security departments walked out after getting their second below-inflation pay deal in a row.

It means some workers



A determined atmosphere on the picket line

get no rise at all while the cost of living is increasing.

The strike was originally planned to start on Monday and to last four days.

Unite organiser Mercedes Sanchez told Socialist Worker, "We cancelled Monday's strike as a goodwill gesture, but it was not reciprocated.

"After this strike we plan to ballot more workers at the bank. This strike involves three departments, and we want to escalate to involve the rest."

ANTI FASCISM

Anti-fascists mobilise in Rochdale against the EDL

FOR THE second Saturday in a row, anti-fascists protested at a fascist incursion into the town of Rochdale last weekend.

After a Britain First gathering the previous week, the English Defence League (EDL) held a march and rally on Saturday. The fascists tried to exploit the issue of sexual abuse in the town.

Both Britain First and the EDL failed in this as locals refused to be part of their scapegoating.

Unite Against Fascism's (UAF) counter protest came off the back of a well supported local statement.

The EDL were bussed in and out of Rochdale under police guard. Their

national demonstration attracted barely 100, including thugs from a Nazi splinter group.

Their hate was ineffective. Several stayed in the pub, unenthusiastic for their own gathering. They left with as little support as they arrived with. In contrast, the UAF demo, although small, connected with people locally.

There was local and regional representation from trade unions including Unison, the PCS, the CWU and Lancashire TUC.

Police facilitated the fascists and kettled anti-fascists. Despite this everyone opposing the EDL was able to rally.

Paul Sillett

ANTI RACISM

Rain on the racists' parade

THE FOOTBALL Lads Alliance (FLA) tries to pretend it is respectable but has attracted some of the worst elements of the far right. When a positive anti-racist message is promoted, the poisonous ideas of the FLA can be challenged.

As a socialist and supporter of Motherwell FC in Scotland I was delighted to learn that the Well Society had invited 40 Syrian refugees to the League Cup match on last Saturday.

This is the fan ownership group who run our club.

Well Society spokesperson John Henderson said, "Lanarkshire has welcomed a large number of refugees from Syria over the past couple of years as our friends."

A public announcement highlighting how refugees have been forced to flee Syria and that Motherwell FC welcomes them was applauded.



FLA marchers

Stand Up To Racism recently organised leafleting at Celtic FC to warn against the FLA. Football fans across Britain can pressure boards to take action. Fan magazines and blogs can also be used to promote anti-racism in football.

We must not allow the FLA and the far right to use football as a vehicle for their message of hate and division.

Charlie McKinnon

PENSIONERS

Riders' demo at cop trial

MORE THAN 30 Freedom Riders travelled to York on Monday to demonstrate outside a British Transport Police disciplinary hearing.

One of the BTP officers responsible for the violent arrests of two protesters at Sheffield station three years ago is facing charges of gross misconduct.

The Freedom Riders were joined by dozens of members of the National Pensioners Convention and other supporters.

The chanting outside could clearly be heard in the hearing.

The group later went into the city centre to distribute leaflets, getting a great response from passersby.

The hearing was expected to last all week.

Fran Postlethwaite

BACK BARTS NHS STRIKE

by TOMÁŠ TENGELY-EVANS

SOLIDARITY HAS spurred on outsourced health workers in east London in their fight against multinational Serco.

The Unite union members began a two-week walkout for a 30p an hour pay rise across four hospitals at Barts Health NHS Trust on Tuesday of last week.

Royal London Hospital picket Sonia said, "It will take more than a week to win what we want, but if we all stick together we can. When everybody is supporting us in our fight, it gives us the courage to carry on."

Trade unionists and health campaigners are organising to deliver solidarity for their fight.

Workers from Waltham Forest Town Hall and nearby Whipps Cross Hospital made donations to the strike fund.

Teachers in the NUT union from Hackney in east London and Islington in north London joined the Royal London picket line.

Two strikers spoke at an Islington trades council meeting last week and received a



STRIKERS ON the picket line at Mile End Hospital

PICTURE: JULIE SHERRY

£280 donation. This solidarity is all the more important in the face of management's attempts to break the strikers.

As Julie, a picket at Barts hospital, said, "This gives us encouragement. We've had support from the local MP, teachers and socialists—there's just been so many of them." Unite said that Serco

is illegally bringing in agency workers to undermine the strike.

But the low-paid, largely migrant workers are determined not to let the bosses stop them from striking.

Striker Akesha said, "If we don't fight now, we won't be ready to fight again.

"Serco are going to come

back and try to take something else from us."

Workers plan a joint day of action alongside fellow Unite members from British Airways and the Bank of England on Thursday (see page 19).

They are set to begin outside a Serco shareholders' meeting, rally outside the Bank of

England, then march to the Civil Aviation Authority.

Every trade unionist and campaigner needs to build solidarity for their fight.

Join the protest outside the Serco shareholders meeting on Thursday 3 August, 7.30am, JP Morgan, 60 Victoria Embankment, London EC4Y 0JP

Nurses fight pay cap with a 'summer of protest'

CHANTS OF "scrap the cap" rang out in front of Downing Street as over 200 nurses protested against the Tories' 1 percent public sector pay cap in central London last Thursday.

It was one of more than 40 protests organised by the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) across England as part of its "summer of protest".

RCN member Marc told Socialist Worker, "Since 2010 we've had a real terms pay cut of 14 percent because of the pay cap, but the cost of living keeps going up."

The protests came as the RCN released new research showing that twice as many

senior nurses are leaving the NHS compared to three years ago. As Marc said, "We have got so many people leaving the profession—and the pay cap plays a big part."

But this is fuelling anger—and a determination to resist the Tories' attacks.

In a pay consultation in May some 78 percent of RCN members said they would be willing to take industrial action.

Other health unions, including Unison, should join the fight against the pay cap, ballot their members for industrial action and build a powerful coalition of public sector workers to take down the Tories.



Rallying against the Tories' pay cap

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

Serco-run centre breached detainee's human rights

AN ASYLUM seeker from Kenya has won a case against the Home Office over her treatment in Yarl's Wood detention centre.

The prison for asylum seekers in Bedfordshire is run by outsourcing giant Serco.

The judge found that the Home Office had acted unlawfully and breached her human rights by keeping her in a "punishment room" for 28 hours.

Officers have to gain permission from the home secretary to keep anyone in isolation after the first 24 hours.

New Tory funds not enough

TORY HEALTH secretary Jeremy Hunt claims the government is beginning one of the "biggest expansions of mental health services in Europe".

The plan would inject £1.3 billion into services by 2021, creating 21,000 more mental health posts.

But Hunt's promise comes after more than seven years of hammering mental health services—and his figures don't add up.

Fewer

Since the Tories got into office in 2010 there are over 5,000 fewer mental health nurses.

Poverty pay, rocketing workloads and slashing the health worker student bursary are turning people away from the NHS.

As Royal College of Nursing (RCN) chief executive Janet Davies said, "If these nurses were going to be ready in time, they would be starting training next month."

"But we have seen that the withdrawal of the bursary has led to a sharp fall in university applications and we are yet to see funding for additional places."

The woman said, "I wasn't just doing it for myself but for thousands of other immigration detainees who are also placed in segregation often without good reason."

Every year 1,200-4,800 detainees suffer from being segregated in immigration detention centres.

Some 30,000 people are locked up every year in Britain's racist immigration system without any time limit.

More on line
For more on Serco, go to bit.ly/2tZhXXk